

## **HABITAT CONSERVATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A regular meeting of the Habitat Conservation Technical Committee (TC) was held in the conference room of the Washington County Administration Building, **September 10, 2015.**

Members present were:

Kristen Comella, Chairperson	Snow Canyon State Park (SCSP)
Cameron Rognan, Vice Chairman	Washington County HCP
Ann McLuckie	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)
Lynne Scott	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Nathan Brown	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Marshall Topham	Local Biologist

Also present were:

Lacey McIntyre	Washington County HCP Recorder
Kent Byland	Sentierre
Stan Castleton	Sentierre
David Castleton	Sentierre
Jessica Mosley	Sentierre

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Cameron Rognan noted a quorum existed and called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **a. July 9, 2015**

**MOTION** by Ann McLuckie to approve the minutes.

Seconded by Nathan Brown.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

### **3. GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **a. Sentierre near Tuacahn – Kent Bylund**

Stan Castleton is the founder of Sentierre and a developer from California who focuses on unique hotels. He and Kent Bylund, a design team member for Sentierre, passed out a map of the planned development (Exhibit 3-a-1) and discussed location of the development and what amenities they would like to have. Sentierre will be completely surrounded by the Reserve and Snow Canyon State Park and will remain open to the public with public parking available. They have planned a stepover just north of the

landmark boulder in the middle of the development where they are asking for an existing path outside of their development to be added as a new trail in the Reserve that would connect to the Toe Trail. Other plans include an interpretive center as well as path guides to help keep visitors informed and on trail. The group asked the TC about a containment basin and 18" vertical concrete wall (Exhibit 3-a-2) along the west boundary and a little of the south boundary bordering their property. The basin would be on their private property to collect all the storm debris that builds up in that area and to route water to a storm drain. A maintenance crew working for the resort will be on the grounds making sure debris is taken care of and cleared when needed. They asked for input on the wall to make sure the TC thought it would function as an appropriate tortoise fence. Kristen suggested adding a short 12" top barrier to the concrete wall to funnel people to the proper trail and that will also be helpful as an additional barrier to keep tortoises from climbing over if there is a large storm that brings a lot of debris to the basin. The main topic for the TC to discuss is the proposal of a new trail that would connect to the Toe Trail. Kristen suggested the TC take a field trip to Sentierre before the October meeting.

#### **b. SUU Fall Trail Monitoring Discussion**

Cameron mentioned Exhibit 3-b-1 which is the SUU Red Cliffs Desert Reserve monitoring proposed project for fall 2015 and spring 2016. The SUU group is planning to come the last two weeks of October to monitor the trails east of SR 18 and either to Grapevine or all the way to the Red Cliffs area. They will also plan another restoration project in the spring as well. Kristen asked how they have been preparing what they are finding on the ground. Cameron answered they gave a formal report at the HCAC and also supplied a written report. Cameron will send the committee those reports so they can look over the work SUU has been doing.

#### **c. Red Cliffs NCA draft RMP Public Comment Period**

Cameron asked if there was anything more specific the TC wanted to discuss regarding the RMP. Most of the members are required to submit their formal comments through their agencies so there is nothing the TC needs to do on this subject together.

### **4. OTHER REPORTS FROM TC MEMBERS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**a.** Ann mentioned there is a law enforcement meeting next week. One of the big issues they have been encountering is illegal take of tortoises. There are remote cameras set up along Red Hills Parkway, and they captured photos of someone stepping into the fenced area and taking a tortoise. The Division of Wildlife put the video on Facebook to see if there are any hits, and they have gotten some leads. Another instance was someone taking a tortoise off of Temple Quarry Trail. There have also been two additional instances of filed tortoises being found in places other than where they should have been.

**b.** Ann asked about Pioneer Park fencing. Cameron mentioned it is not a priority for the City, and they do not seem interested in doing it. He suggests a few committee members meet at the site and see if there is an alternative fencing strategy. Lynne also mentioned there is extra tortoise mesh at the BLM that perhaps could be used for that area.

**c.** Kristen reported Snow Canyon State Park is updating the park brochure and putting in new signage.

**d.** Kristen updated the committee on work that has been done at the Chuckwalla trailhead. They have put in a new stepover, there has been spraying of goat heads, and tumbleweed has been hauled away by the prison crew.

**e.** Lynne mentioned the BLM has miles of fencing that was previously purchased for fencing the NCA. If the committee knows of any place that needs to be fenced in the NCA they have supplies that need to be used.

**f.** Lynne said the BLM has been working on kiosks to help educate visitors on safety and rules of the Red Cliffs NCA.

## **5. NEXT MEETING DATES**

### **a. October 8, 2015**

The committee agreed to meet at Sentierre at 9:30 a.m. for a field trip before the next meeting.

## **6. ADJOURN**

**MOTION** by Kristen Comella to adjourn.

**Seconded** by Lynne Scott.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote was taken:** All voted aye.

**Motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.  
Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.